

Amendment

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following listing of claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing a plurality of participants to [[a]] an event comprising:

a director having an address associated therewith for delivering the event to the plurality of participants;

a plurality of participant managers installed within a network communication system and logically connected amongst themselves and to said director thereby forming a hierarchy, the director forming a root of the hierarchy, the participant managers forming branches of the hierarchy, and the participants forming leaves of the hierarchy; and

a turnstile installed at and associated with each of the plurality of participants, each turnstile logically connected to one of said plurality of participant managers in said hierarchy based on an association between the turnstile and one or more characteristics of the network communication system[[,]]

~~wherein said turnstile identifies one or more network elements in a communication path between said turnstile and said director, and~~

~~wherein said director logically connects said turnstile with a particular one of said plurality of participant managers based on said one or more network elements between said turnstile and said director.~~

2. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile sends delivery statistics regarding said associated participant to said connected participant manager; and

wherein said plurality of participant managers propagates said delivery statistics upstream through said hierarchy to said director.

3. **(Original)** The system of claim 2, wherein said plurality of participant managers aggregates said delivery statistics from those of said plurality of participants beneath it in said hierarchy.
4. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said associated participant presents said turnstile with a ticket to the event to gain access to the event.
5. **(Original)** The system of claim 4, wherein said turnstile determines whether said ticket is valid.
6. **(Original)** The system of claim 5, wherein said turnstile forwards a valid ticket to said connected participant manager for authentication.
7. **(Original)** The system of claim 6, wherein said connected participant manager communicates authorization to said turnstile upon determining said ticket is authentic.
8. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said director provides event information to said connected participant manager.
9. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile prevents said associated participant from receiving the event until a ticket associated with the event is authenticated.
10. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile prevents said associated participant from receiving the event until a ticket associated with the event is determined to have been provided to said associated participant.
- 11-45. **(Cancelled)**

46. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the characteristics include at least one of a network point of entry, a geographic location, network congestion, or network performance.